

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 13411 272032Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 271936Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1366

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 13411

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CU, GY, AO, VE

SUBJECT: TRANSIT REFUELING FOR CUBAN MILITARY FLIGHTS

REF: A. STATE 302785 B. GEORGETOWN 2172 C. GEORGETOWN 2194

1. I SAW ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, JORGE GOMEZ MANTELLINI, ON DECEMBER 27 TO BRING HIM UP-TO-DATE ON THE ANGOLA SITUATION AND TO REQUEST THAT GOV INTERCEDE WITH GOG TO BLOCK THE CUBAN REFUELING FLIGHTS AS PER REF TEL A. GOMEZ MANTELLINI STATED THAT PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ IS HIGHLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION AND HAS CALLED IN THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO GEORGETOWN FOR BRIEFING WHICH TOOK PLACE LAST NIGHT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY DEMARCHE, GOMEZ MANTELLINI SAID HE COULD SEE WHY WE DID NOT WANT TO INTERCEDE DIRECTLY WITH BURNHAM (I DID NOT MENTION MESSAGE IN STATE 302785, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF REF TEL C, SINCE HE WOULD PROBABLY TELL US "TO GO TO HELL". AFTER THINKING FOR A MOMENT HE SAID "WHAT IF HE TELLS US TO GO TO HELL?". HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD BRING THE MESSAGE TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND ASKED ME TO STANDBY.

3. GOMEZ MANTELLINI JUST CALLED ME ON THE TELEPHONE TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY FORMALIZE ITS REQUEST VIA DIPLOMATIC NOTE AND THAT HE MAY WISH TO SEE ME LATER THIS EVENING. PURSUANT TO MY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY ASSIS-
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TANT SECRETARY RYAN, I HAVE JUST TRANSMITTED A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO

THE FOREIGN OFFICE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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